

Pre-Marriage Counseling from God's Word

Marriage is a very important step in one's life and a step that must not be taken lightly. This is perhaps the second most important decision one must make, considering the decision to follow the Lord as the most important. Therefore we should look to the Master for instruction in forming marriage relationships. Let us carefully look at the following passages from God's word.

Genesis 2:18 And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.

Genesis 2:21-24

21 And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof;

22 And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

23 And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

Proverbs 18:22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.

Hebrews 13:4-6

4 Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.

5 Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.

6 So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.

Ephesians 5:22-29

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

23 For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.

25 Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it;

26 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word,

27 That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

28 So ought men to love their wives as their own bodies. He that loveth his wife loveth himself.

29 For no man ever yet hated his own flesh; but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church:

1 Timothy 5:14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

1 Timothy 5:8 But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.

Proverbs 19:13-14

13 A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.

14 House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the Lord.

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1 Corinthians 7:2-5

2 Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.

3 Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence: and likewise also the wife unto the husband.

4 The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife.

5 Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.

Proverbs 5:18-20

18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

19 Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

20 And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

Malachi 2:15-16

15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

16 For the Lord, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the Lord of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.

Matthew 19:3-9

3 The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause?

4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

5 And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

6 Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

7 They say unto him, Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorcement, and to put her away?

8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

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Some things we learn about marriage from these scriptures:

1. It is not good to be alone. Marriage is ordained from God himself and is therefore strictly a religious covenant made between one man and one woman with God's approval and witness.
2. Marriage requires both parties to leave and cleave. If you are not ready to leave all others and cleave unto each other, you are not ready to get married. Both must leave their mothers and fathers and be joined to one another. This does not mean that you forsake your parents, however it does mean that your relationship to each other is of more importance and requires more attention than your relationship to parents.
3. Marriage is honorable and sexual relations fulfilled within its covenant are honorable also. However, whoremongers and adulterers (those who fulfill sexual desires outside the marriage covenant) will receive judgment from God. Fornication and homosexuality are at the top of nearly all lists of sins found in the Bible. The reason is that such is the cause for moral decay in individuals, families, and societies. (*keep thee only unto him/her*)
4. Marriages built with God as the cornerstone, will allow one to be content with whatever they have (*for better or for worse, in sickness and in health*) realizing that God will never leave or forsake them. He will be their helper.
5. The Husband is the head of the family. The wife must submit unto him in all things in the Lord. The Husband must Love the wife as he loves his own self and body. If the female partner is unwilling to submit to her own husband as unto the Lord, she is not ready to get married.
6. A marriage is something that must be nourished and cherished. This requires time and energy.
7. The primary responsibility of the wife in marriage is to bear children and guide the home. The primary responsibility of the husband is to provide for his family. This does not prevent other activities, but only states that nothing else should prevent one from contributing these primary things. If either is unwilling to provide these necessities they are not ready to get married.
8. Contentious persons cause problems in marriage while prudent ones contribute to a healthy marriage. Each should view the other more important as themselves.
9. Sexual relations should not be withheld as a punishment or power tool within marriage. Such behavior may lead to fornication. Paul said your body belongs to your spouse.
10. God hates divorce and prescribes one cause to dissolve the marriage while both parties live. That reason is adultery. God will not hold one guiltless that divorces for any other cause.

As a minister of God, it is my responsibility to insure that each person joined in marriage under my hand is aware of what God's word teaches. Therefore, I require that each person sit and read this document together with me. Questions may be asked and comments made. However, at the end of our session, God's word is still the authority and I require both signing and dating the document. It will be retained as a reminder of our conversation and your pledge to each other before God.

Daniel Newell,

Minister Church of Christ

"Our desire is to invoke God's blessings upon our marriage. We believe those things which God's word teaches about marriage and intend to allow God's word to direct us in our relationships with each other."

Sign: _____ Date: _____

Sign: _____ Date: _____

Daniel Newell
Church of Christ at Clay City